



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
San Francisco District

Project Map

LAKE SONOMA/WARM SPRINGS DAM
CALIFORNIA

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1st District, Rep. Mike Thompson; 6th District, Rep. Lynn Woolsey

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Warm Springs Dam project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1962 and completed in 1983, for the purposes of flood control, water supply, and recreation. The 30 million cubic yard dam is compacted earthfill with an impervious core, measuring 319 feet high and 3,000 feet long. Lake Sonoma, located at the confluence of Dry Creek and Warm Springs Creek, tributaries of the Russian River, has a storage capacity of 381,000 acre-feet and has a total surface area of 3600 acres. The lake has an ungated spillway designed for a maximum release of 29,600 cubic feet per second. Major facilities include a fish hatchery/visitor center complex, park headquarters, hydropower plant, developed campground (100 sites), 15 primitive boat-in/hike-in campgrounds, a 40 mile trail system, marina, two launch ramps, swim beach, and picnic areas. Eight thousand acres of the park's 17,000 acres is a wildlife management area managed under a license with the California State Department of Fish and Game.

FISCAL YEAR 03 BUDGET: \$4,338,000

PRESENT STATUS: The Warm Springs Dam/Lake Sonoma Project was designed to create a multipurpose reservoir for the residents of Sonoma County and the San Francisco Bay area. Benefits of the project include virtual elimination of flooding of Dry Creek and a reduction in frequency and flooding of the Russian River downstream of Dry Creek. Lake Sonoma provides recreation opportunities for approximately 500,000 visitors per year with over 50% of all recreation use by boaters. Increased outdoor recreation opportunities include camping, boating, hunting, fishing, and hiking. Over \$100,000 was collected in recreation fees during FY-01. The Congressman Don Clausen Fish Hatchery is designed to mitigate the loss of spawning areas upstream of Warm Springs Dam and is located at the downstream toe of the dam. The operation and maintenance of the hatchery is under a cooperative agreement with the Department of Fish and Game with all operation and maintenance costs reimbursed by the Corps.

A Board of Investigation convened on January 25, 1995, to study the failure of the bulkhead gate hydraulic system. The repair of the bulkhead gate was completed in 1999.

The Emergency Water Supply Line to the fish hatchery was damaged during the winter of 1997. The pipe was repaired, and the water supply fill line was modified. Air vent modifications were completed in 1998 to decrease or eliminate vibrations during high releases. In 2000, sonic meters were installed in the conduit to monitor effects of releases on the water supply line.

Kelly Road, a 30-mile-long, privately built logging road that was constructed in the 1950's, was acquired by the Corps in 1979 for the Warm Springs Dam project. Approximately 24 miles of the road outside the park boundary were designated as surplus. Road material from approximately 17 miles of the road eroded into the adjacent Gualala River watershed, which provides potential habitat for two federally listed endangered species, Coho salmon and steelhead trout. In May 1997, the State of California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) issued a Cleanup and Abatement Order to the Corps regarding erosion from Kelly Road. The Corps has completed over \$1 million in drainage improvements. In November 1998, the Corps placed the 24 miles of roadway up for bid. Improvements were approved by the RWQCB in February 1999, and the road transferred to the successful bidder in June 1999.

Serious erosion during the winter of 1997/1998 has led to the failure of a portion of the only road that provides access to Liberty Glen Campground, the park's only drive-in camping facility. A temporary gravel road was established in 1998. Over \$280,000 in emergency relief funds (ERFO) from the U.S. Department of Transportation will be used to complete a permanent repair in 2001.

FUTURE EFFORTS: A contract is being written for the operation of the fish hatchery, which will replace the existing cooperative agreement with the California Department of Fish and Game. Environmental studies of several former underground storage tank sites and a former firing range were completed in 2000. A corrective action feasibility report and plans/specifications were written to provide soil removal and other remediation measures for the contaminated underground storage tank sites. Estimated contract costs are \$105,000. The former firing range will need additional studies to determine the extent of lead contamination.